Illegal promotions of drugs

2855. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 25 per cent of the 53 pharma members of Organization of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) violate norms on gifts to doctors to promote unapproved use of drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the companies penalized in the United States of America for illegally promoting various drugs through inducements of doctors; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by Government to curb such drug companies bribing doctors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) to (c) The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has informed that as per the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 no Pharmaceuticals companies are allowed to promote any unapproved use of drug in the country. The CDSCO has no such information that over 25 percent of the 53 Pharma members of Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) violate norms on gifts to doctors to promote unapproved use of drugs. The CDSCO has likewise not received any official information about companies penalized in the United States of America for illegally promoting various drugs through inducements of doctors.

The Department of Pharmaceuticals, which is concerned with the subject matter, has however, informed that there were some reports in the newspapers in the recent past regarding promotional expenses being made by the Pharma Companies. The reports suggest that some unethical marketing practices are being followed by certain pharma companies. Keeping in view the seriousness of the allegations made in the media reports, that Department felt the need to take up the matter in the interest of the consumer/patients, as such promotional expenses being extended to doctors had direct implications on the pricing of drugs and its affordability. After discussion the issues with the Pharma Associations/industry, that Department has been able to persuade most of the associations to have a self-professed code of ethics. The Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) and Indian Drug Manufacturers' Association have informed that they alongwith the Confederation of Indian Pharmaceutical Industry (CIPI), Federation Pharmaceutical Entrepreneurs (FOPE), Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) and SME Pharma Industries Confederation (SPIC) have worked out the 'Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices' (UCMP)'.

Progress of NRHM in Rajasthan

2856. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received the progress report of the work being done by the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in Rajasthan;